

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO: 94-01

IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE CENTER PLANNING
COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit has successfully utilized mediation with great success as a dispute resolution alternative in county civil cases, circuit civil cases, as well as family division matters; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that the resolution of disputes at a community level prior to the initiation of a civil action can lead to a more cost-effective and long-term resolution of that dispute; and

WHEREAS, there is a desire to establish a pilot center in one community in Leon County to assess the viability of this concept in reducing the initiation of civil actions and equipping communities with the ability to resolve disputes in a less litigious and costly manner. It is therefore

ORDERED THAT:

I. PLANNING COMMITTEE

A Leon County Neighborhood Justice Center Planning Committee is hereby established. Membership on this committee shall consist of the following:

1. The chief judge of the Second Judicial Circuit or a circuit judge designated by the chief judge. The chief judge or circuit judge shall serve as the chair of this planning committee.
2. One Leon County judge designated by the chief judge.
3. The chair of the Leon County Board of County Commission or designee.
4. The chair of the Tallahassee City Commission or designee.
5. The director of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center or designee.

6. The trial court administrator for the Second Judicial Circuit or designee.
7. The director of the Leon County Citizens Dispute Settlement Program or designee.
8. The chair shall reserve the right to add additional members at any time. However, membership on this committee shall not exceed (12) twelve members.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Planning Committee will be to develop a plan for the implementation of a Neighborhood Justice Center in one neighborhood in the Tallahassee area. The primary purpose of the Neighborhood Justice Center will be to bring mediation and other dispute resolution resources to that neighborhood to resolve inter-personal, economic, landlord-tenant and other conflicts that may arise within the neighborhood.

III. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The specific responsibilities of this committee shall include, at a minimum:

1. Determining one neighborhood within the geographical confines of the City of Tallahassee to implement the neighborhood justice program.
2. Identifying a facility to house the Neighborhood Justice Center.
3. Determining whether volunteer mediation services can be utilized to assist in resolving neighborhood disputes.
4. Determining whether other services could be appropriately managed by the Neighborhood Justice Center Program, such as: indigent legal services, constitutional rights education, assistance in obtaining domestic violence injunctions, a referral service for citizens needing additional assistance, and other functions that may be deemed appropriate and feasible by the planning committee.
5. Identifying the resources needed to implement, at least on a part time basis, the neighborhood justice center concept.
6. Determining potential funding sources to establish a Neighborhood Justice Center project in Leon County Florida.

IV. MEETINGS

The committee shall meet at the times and locations determined by the Chair. The committee shall produce a final report by May 2, 1994.

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Neighborhood Justice Center Planning Committee shall remain in existence after the above referenced plan is completed. The Committee shall assume an oversight role when a Neighborhood Justice Center is established. The committee shall periodically review the activities and accomplishments of the Neighborhood Justice Center, make recommendations for improved operation, recommend areas for expanded service and assess the feasibility of creating additional centers in other neighborhoods.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida
this 3 day of January, 1994.


PHILIP J. PADOVANO
CHIEF JUDGE

